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WEBB, S. *A constitution for the socialist commonwealth of Great Britain.* (London: Longmans. Pp. 350.)

The case of the Rand School. (New York: Rand School of Social Science. 1920. Pp. 20.)

Certain aspects of the bolshevist movement in Russia. (New York: Am. Assoc. for Intern. Conciliation. 1920. Pp. 43.)

Decrees and constitution of soviet Russia. (New York: Nation Press. 1919. Pp. 89. 25c.)

Facts against socialism. (London: London Munic. Soc. 1920. Pp. 8.)

Memorandum on the bolshevist or communist party in Russia and its relations to the third or communist international and to the Russian soviets. (Washington: Supt. Docs. 1920. Pp. 49.)

Profit sharing by American employers. Examples from England; types in France. (New York: Nat. Civic Fed. 1920. Pp. 423.)

A collection of specific statements in regard to several hundred firms using profit-sharing plans. The first edition was published in 1916, but a considerable part of that volume has been omitted and supplementary matter brings the narrative of current experience down to date. One chapter deals with the attitude of trade unions.

Report on profit-sharing and labour co-partnership in the United Kingdom. (London: Intelligence & Statistics Dept., Ministry of Labour. 1920. Pp. 244.)

The truth about the Lusk committee. (New York: People's Freedom Union. 1920. 25c.)

Statistics and Its Methods

Mortality Statistics of Insured Wage-Earners and their Families.

By LOUIS I. DUBLIN with the collaboration of EDWIN W. KOPF and GEORGE H. VAN BUREN. (New York: Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. 1919. Pp. viii, 397.)

This volume is a contribution to American vital statistics of national importance. It presents the detailed analysis of the mortality experience of the Industrial Department of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company for a six-year period, 1911-1916, together with a supplement including similar data for 1917 in less detail. The study aims to furnish "a comprehensive treatment of the entire field of mortality as related to wage-earners and their families," covering more than 635,000 deaths distributed over most of the states of this country and the provinces of Canada. Added interest is given to the results because the period under consideration has been marked by a comprehensive program of

life conservation initiated by the Metropolitan Company in the interest of its policy holders. The analysis of the facts over several years forms the basis for judging progress in the health movement among the industrial population and for planning future health policies and health research. Moreover, insurance mortality statistics, of which the present study is the most comprehensive yet published, constitute a most important contribution to our knowledge of health conditions in areas where at present no other authentic data exist. In some respects the population under consideration is a selected one, but the author is careful to recognize the differences in his comparisons and analysis and to guard against false deductions.

The fact that the analysis relates to the great group of industrial workers and their families entitles this work to particular consideration. This is a field where the data furnished by public agencies, federal, state, and local, have been either lacking or especially incomplete and defective. Reference to Bulletin 207, United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, March, 1917, which sets forth the occupational mortality experience of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, classified by principal causes of death, will show the great variety of occupations represented in the business of the Industrial Department of the company. It seems to the reviewer that at least a summary of the material published in this bulletin might well have been included in the present volume for the convenience of the reader.

The exposure during the entire period under observation aggregated almost 54,000,000 years of life, among whom more than 635,000 deaths occurred. Almost one half of this exposure was white females; and the colored, both sexes, formed 12.5 per cent of the total. It is clear that the numbers were large enough to make possible reliable conclusions.

A noteworthy feature of this analysis of mortality is the great care taken by the Statistical Bureau of the company to establish the exact cause of death. A regular system of correspondence with the certifying physicians was established, seeking their co-operation in furnishing the kind of information necessary for an accurate statistical classification of the causes of death. By this means, during the six-year period, the death rate for "simple peritonitis" was reduced 41 per cent and for "tuberculous meningitis" was increased about 13 per cent. Appendix C of this volume shows the number of deaths charged to certain causes before

and after these supplementary inquiries from certifying physicians. The very large percentage of changed classifications furnishes convincing evidence of the importance of the above procedure in improving the accuracy of basic vital facts. In the chapter devoted to the analysis of specific causes of death frequent reference is made to the need for and the results achieved by the procedure above described, a procedure now followed by our federal Division of Vital Statistics and for many years past by the English Registrar General.

The first three chapters of the book are devoted to matters of more general interest in setting forth the scope and methods of the report and in discussing the representative character of the data and their claims to accuracy and the confidence of the reader. An analysis is first made of the combined mortality without distinction of cause, classified according to color, sex, and age. A comparison is made of the death rates of white insured persons with the death rates in the registration area of the United States, age class by age class for each sex. There appears a marked excess of mortality among the insured male wage-earners over that among males in the general population, at ages 25 years and over. It is an important purpose of the detailed analysis in succeeding chapters to offer reasons for this excess.

This raises at once the interesting inquiry as to the factors which influence industrial insurance mortality. Hazards of occupation, liability to illness, adequacy of incomes to provide proper food, housing and clothing, available medical service, urban conditions—are some of the factors which affect the industrial population in a manner different from the general population. It is fair also to raise the question as to the possible selection of the insured population in the direction of the less favorable risks among the workers. One of the most useful results of the work under review should be to suggest lines of further inquiry into the welfare of wage-earners. It is important to note that a marked decline in mortality has taken place in the insured group during the period 1911 to 1916, considerably greater than in the general population of the registration area.

The remaining fourteen chapters of the book are devoted to an analysis of the more important diseases and conditions, considered in the order of their numerical importance in causing mortality, *i.e.*, tuberculosis, organic diseases of the heart, pneumonia, Bright's disease, external causes of death (accidents, suicide and

homicide), cancer, cerebral hemorrhage and apoplexy, communicable diseases of childhood (measles, scarlet fever, whooping cough, diphtheria, and croup), diarrhea and enteritis, diseases and conditions incidental to the maternal state, and a large number of other diseases such as typhoid fever, influenza, diabetes, appendicitis, syphilis, alcoholism, pellagra and malaria, each treated in some detail. These specific causes of death are analyzed according to color, sex, and age, and the trend of mortality over the period under observation is indicated in each case.

Tuberculosis is the most important cause, accounting for over 17 per cent of all the deaths recorded by the Industrial Department of the company during the period. This disease not only disables more individuals than any other but does it at a time of life which means the disruption of families and the most serious economic losses. Yet, the available statistics on tuberculosis for the general population are far from satisfactory either for careful study or for practical health work. Therefore, the present analysis in detail according to color, sex, and age, and the various forms of the disease furnishes a valuable and much needed contribution. The striking fact that among insured males the death rate from pulmonary tuberculosis was over 30 per cent greater than for the general population emphasizes the ravages of the disease among wage-earners. An examination of the death rates over the six-year period by age groups shows the greatest relative decline at those ages where the rates are highest and where lives are most valuable to the community.

The data here presented, which show varying distributions of the death rates from pulmonary tuberculosis in the several color and sex groups, suggest that the same conditions which Dr. Brownell found in Great Britain are repeated in the United States.

Over the question as to whether cancer mortality is really on the increase much controversy has arisen. Such controversies can be settled only by observing the detailed facts over a period of years, for a fairly constant population. Moreover, cancer statistics should show the incidence of the disease in the various age periods, according to sex and color or race, and organ affected. These conditions are fulfilled in the present study; and, in addition, by inquiry of certifying physicians, special effort was made to increase the statistical reliability of the basic data. Over the six-year period the cancer death rates in this experience, for all ages combined, show no decisive upward or downward tendency.

A longer period of time and the same detailed analysis will be required to arrive at reliable conclusions. It will be observed that the rate among the colored increased more rapidly over the six-year period than for the whites. This fact may throw light on the influence of improved registration as a cause of the apparent increase in the cancer death rate.

The chapter which presents the facts as to the diseases incidental to the maternal state will prove especially suggestive and helpful to those engaged in the campaign to protect the health of mother and child. Within the child-bearing age these diseases are second in importance only to tuberculosis as a cause of death. In the main they are preventable and occur at a time of life which causes serious social loss. The facts here analyzed indicate a very important field for intensive public health work which is now being cultivated with increasing care in the prenatal work carried on by both public and private agencies. The marked decline in the death rate from those diseases in the insured experience over the six-year period has justified the policy of the Metropolitan Company in making this care of women after childbirth a major function of their nursing service from the very beginning.

The book is made up of careful, detailed analysis and conservative statement of results on the various diseases treated. The statements of the author are well supported by the facts, and the limitations of the data are frankly and adequately set forth. The plan and execution of the volume deserves favorable mention. The tables and graphic devices are simple and clear, with complete and self-explanatory headings. The order of treatment is logical and within each chapter clearly outlined. The entire work is rendered very accessible by brief chapter outlines at the beginning and a fairly detailed index. There is little occasion for the use of footnotes except to clarify and qualify the facts and terms presented, since this is a study from original data, using the federal mortality statistics for comparison with the mortality of the general population in the registration area.

It is a matter of regret that the company does not have available the figures showing the numbers of native and foreign-born persons and of the various foreign white race stocks among the insured; these facts are important in the analysis of the mortality experience.

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